

really want to do with it. I think most of us that have signed it think that it is a necessary thing that we should be doing not just for the public colleges and universities but also for the private schools. They would have equal right to the funding.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. As one who attended a private school, I think that we have too many demands with public schools to be putting our money into private schools. I might be the only one in this body that believes that and furthermore I feel that with this money hanging there when it comes to Final Reading it will perhaps spoil other situations where the four state colleges or other educational institutions that are publicly supported in the end will suffer because we have this. I don't think we should be setting five million bucks aside when we are not going to be using it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle on his own time.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.)

SENATOR KAHLE: ...we have before us today a measure to fund the State's Scholarship Program. When this basic legislation which authorized this program passed in 1978, the vote on final passage was 38 ayes, 7 nays and 4 excused. There has been considerable turnover in this body since that landmark legislation was passed as only 14 of us are still here, and of those 14, there were 11 who voted for the State Scholarship Program. In intervening years, we have seen the cost of higher education go up a great deal. Today is our first real opportunity since the passage of this State Scholarship Act to recognize and do something about the burden students and their families must bear in order to open the doors of opportunity presented by higher education. Our delay in putting some funding into scholarships is understandable and excusable. The act was subject to constitutional test which it passed. I repeat that. The act was subject to constitutional test which it passed and